

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 154338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD

SUBJECT:AMBASSADOR'S OPENING STATEMENT FOR CCD SUMMER
SESSION

1. FOLLOWING IS CLEARED TEXT OF STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY
US REPRESENTATIVE TO CCD AT OPENING OF 1977 SUMMER SESSION
JULY 5.

BEGIN TEXT. MR. CHAIRMAN: IT IS AN HONOR AND, INDEED, A
GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO RETURN TO THIS FORUM AND TO THE
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UNITED STATES DELEGATION AFTER A HIATUS OF EIGHT YEARS.

IT IS REASSURING TO RECOGNIZE A NUMBER OF OLD FRIENDS AMONG
THE MANY FACES I SEE HERE. I LOOK FORWARD BOTH TO RENEWING
ACQUAINTANCES AND TO MEETING THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE MORE RE-
CENTLY JOINED THE CCD.

THE CHALLENGES THAT FACE THE CCD TODAY ARE AT LEAST AS LARGE TODAY AS THEY WERE A DECADE AGO. THE DISARMAMENT AGENDA IS A FULL ONE, AND THE CCD MUST BE INVOLVED DEEPLY IN THE SHAPING OF DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY. INDEED, WE HAVE A SPECIAL IMPETUS AND INCENTIVE TO SHAPE CONCRETE ARMS CONTROL MEASURES IN THIS AND THE FOLLOWING CCD SESSIONS BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT A

SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL CONVENE IN LESS THAN A YEAR.

THE GOAL OF A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN HAS BEEN ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS CONTROL AGENDA FOR EVEN LONGER THAN THIS COMMITTEE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE. A LONG FIRST STRIDE TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE WAS TAKEN IN 1963 WHEN THE LIMITED TEST BAN TREATY WAS SIGNED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CCD'S PREDECESSOR COMMITTEE. I WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION OF THAT AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, SINCE THAT TIME--AND DESPITE THE PROGRESS REPRESENTED BY THE TREATIES ON THE LIMITATION OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS AND ON UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, ABOUT WHICH OUR DELEGATION SPOKE IN SOME DETAIL ON MAY 10, 1976--A CTB HAS ELUDED OUR GRASP. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD SLOW THE PACE OF THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. EQUALY IMPORTANT, AND OF COURSE ASSUMING THAT IT WERE GENUINELY NONDISCRIMINATORY AND ADEQUATELY VERIFIED, THE AGREEMENT

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WOULD CONTRIBUTE MIGHTILY TO PREVENTING THE FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. MY GOVERNMENT AND THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION HELD USEFUL PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS ON A CTB IN WASHINGTON LAST MONTH. IN THE NEXT WEEK, DELEGATIONS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL BE JOINED BY GREAT BRITAIN TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT ON KEY ELEMENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN. IF SUCH AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED, WE BELIEVE THAT THE CCD, GIVEN THE CONTINUITY AND EXPERTISE REPRESENTED IN ITS MEMBERSHIP, THEREAFTER CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ELABORATION OF AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL TREATY.

DISCUSSIONS AND EXPERTS MEETINGS DURING PAST CCD SESSIONS HAVE YIELDED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL OF COMPLETE AND EFFECTIVE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. PURSUANT TO PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS, MY GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AIMED AT REACHING EARLY AGREEMENT ON A JOINT INITIATIVE IN THIS FIELD. THIS WEEK WE ARE BEGINNING A NEW ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS. IF, AS WE HOPE, US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS ARE SUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD ENVISAGE THE NEXT STEP TO BE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CCD AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO ELABORATE THE TEXT OF

AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMITTEE PLAN AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON CW IN THE LATTER PART OF THE CURRENT SESSION TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO PROCEED. WE WOULD HOPE AT THAT TIME TO BE ABLE TO REPORT ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE US-SOVIET CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WILL CONTINUE IN THE COMING WEEKS.

IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO ACHIEVE MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS PROHIBITING NUCLEAR TESTS AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THESE ISSUES,

AFTER ALL, HAVE TANTALIZED DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATORS BUT ELUDED RESOLUTION IN THE PAST. BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE ARE NOW ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

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TURNING TO OUR INTERNAL CONCERNS, I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE SPRING SESSION IN IMPROVING COMMITTEE PROCEDURES. FOR EXAMPLE, RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE OF AD HOC WORKING GROUPS TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IS AN EMINENTLY SENSIBLE ONE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS. SUCH GROUPS CAN BE USEFUL--AND INDEED HAVE ALREADY PROVEN TO BE SO--WHEN A PROPER FOUNDATION ON A GIVEN ISSUE HAS BEEN LAID IN THE CCD. AT THAT POINT, A WORKING GROUP CAN UNDERTAKE CONCENTRATED, DETAILED NEGOTIATION OR STUDY AND OFFER THE PROSPECT OF BUSINESSLIKE PROGRESS TO ITS ASSIGNED GOAL. IN THIS REGARD, MY GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO THE TIME WHEN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CONSULTATIONS ON BOTH CTB AND CW TO WARRANT ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A GROUP FOR EACH.

IT IS APPROPRIATE, I BELIEVE, TO NOTE HERE THAT ANOTHER PAGE IN THE RECORD OF CCD ACCOMPLISHMENTS WAS ADDED A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN THE CONVENTION PROHIBITING ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE HERE IN GENEVA. IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, THE CONVENTION SHOULD ELIMINATE THIS POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FORM OF WARFARE. IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF OUR ARMS CONTROL ENDEAVORS, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED THE DEPOSITORY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.

ALLOW ME AGAIN TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL PLEASURE AT THE PROSPECT OF SERVING ON THE COMMITTEE WITH YOU. I LOOK FORWARD TO A BUSY SUMMER THAT WILL BRING FORTH MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. WE NEED NOT BLUSH TO SAY THAT HUMANITY HAS A MAJOR STAKE IN THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT MISSION. END TEXT.

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3. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ADDITIONAL MATERIAL WILL BE
TRANSMITTED FOR INSERTION IN STATEMENT PRIOR TO JULY 5.

4. REQUEST YOU REPORT ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN TEXT TO
WASHINGTON. CHRISTOPHER

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